

we think of black history, I grew up in an era where I was taught to read by unlocking words and, to an extent, we were taught that history meant his story, and lots of people think of history as meaning his or her story. I have been challenging young people throughout my district and every place that I have gone to view black history not so much in the context of history, but in terms of "mystery," meaning that it becomes my story. And each one of us has a story that we can write or a story that we can tell.

I spent part of Monday, I say to the gentleman from New York, with 10 kindergartners in a school, and they were watching "Roots" as I came into the classroom. And before we ended the day, each one of them had decided that they were going to be an integral part of making black history and that they were going to look back to understand where they came from so that they would have a better understanding of how they got to where they are, and they would have a greater awareness and appreciation of where they ought to be going.

So I want to commend the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Maryland for helping to bring alive the historical development of African Americans in this country so that all of us know that we continue to move forward even as we look back. I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying that this year, the year 2005, is a landmark year for the observance of African American history in that there will be an African American museum launched here on the Mall during this year. The money has been appropriated for the planning. There is a distinguished board of Americans who are going to go forward with this, including Oprah Winfrey, Ken Chenault of American Express, Tony Welters of AmeriChoice, and a whole group of business people and academics who will oversee the beginning of this process. I would like to call upon all celebrities out there who have money, because part of the arrangement is that the government will pay for one-half of it, and the other half has to be raised in private contributions. So I call on all of the celebrities and the stars and the athletes to come forward and let us make certain that this great project does not falter at all as a result of not having the private funds to match the government funds.

It is a great day in the observance of African American history, a long haul from the day when Carter G. Woodson asked for a 1-day observance and could not get it, and then it finally became a week and a month. We want a museum that brings it all together right here in Washington to make sure that our children and the children of all Americans, not just African American descendants but all Americans, understand the role and the contribution of African Americans to the history of this great Nation.

MOURNING THE LOSS AND CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF THREE PROMINENT CHICAGO CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for giving me the opportunity to make these comments prior to the hour that she will be using on behalf of the majority.

Mr. Speaker, this week, residents of Chicago lost three of its most prominent citizens. Earlier today, the funeral was held for a blues singer, a fellow named Tyrone Davis, who has had great popular songs such as "Mom's Apple Pie" and "Turn Back the Hands of Time." Tyrone grew up in Mississippi, rural Mississippi, as a matter of fact, not far from Greenville. He came to Chicago and ultimately became one of the top recording artists in the country. He also happens to be a resident of the neighborhood that I come from. He came and lived on the west side of the city of Chicago and interacted in the night clubs and blues joints before he rose to the top.

□ 1530

And so I simply want to express condolences to the wife and family of Tyrone Davis, great blues singer. We also lost this week attorney Earl Neal, one of the most accomplished lawyers that the country has ever seen.

Earl distinguished himself as a great attorney, great trial lawyer, but also was actively engaged and involved in civics and community affairs, chairman of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois, his alma mater; chairman of the University of Illinois Alumni Association; and also chairman of the Urban Health Program, where, through his efforts, the University of Illinois trained more African American physicians and dentists than any college or university in the Nation, with the exception of Howard and Meharry.

And so certainly we want to extol our condolences to Earl's wife, Isabella, his son, attorney Langdon Neal, and other members of his family.

And finally Milton Davis, who was chairman of Shorebank, little group of people got together, started a bank, they called it south Shorebank. It emerged as the number-one community lending institution in the Nation. Right now its assets are more than a billion dollars, and Milton Davis and I collaborated, and he put a bank in the neighborhood where I lived, called the Austin branch of Shorebank.

So I simply want to express condolences to his wife and family, and all of those who are associated with Shorebank, one of the top community lending institutions in the Nation, on the life and legacy of Milton Davis, its former president and chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the life and work of one of America's

most skilled, most effective and most influential lawyers, Attorney Earl Neal. Over the years, I have often heard Earl Neal referred to as a lawyer's lawyer or as the city's expert on may issues, no matter who the mayor or city's management might have been composed of. I have been involved in court cases and litigation where I was on one side and Earl was on the other. In each instance, although we were (in fact adversaries) I always found myself wishing that we were on the same side. There were instances where we were on the same side of issues and I always had the highest level of assurance that were being represented as well as humanely possible.

In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, Earl and his wife Isabella were prominent civic and social leaders in the State of Illinois. He was intimately associated with his alma mater, the University of Illinois serving on the Board of Trustees, President of the Alumni Association and Chairman of the Urban Health Advisory Council which resulted in the University of Illinois training more African American physicians and dentists than any medical school in the USA with the exception of Howard and Meharry.

To Mrs. Neal and Attorney Langdon Neal and other members of the family, you have the heartfelt condolences of myself, my wife, Vera and our entire family. Earl has been as Harold Washington would say, "fruit of the loom, best of the breed, in a class by himself."

STOPPING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to highlight the important role this Congress must play in rooting out waste, fraud and abuse in government spending. The Federal Government currently spends over \$69,000 every second of every day. That astonishing figure is simply too high. This Congress must become a better steward of the taxpayers' dollars and we must do it now.

Our constituents deserve to send less of their hard-earned dollars to Washington and have more of their money to spend on their families, businesses and dreams. They meticulously budget their dollars at their kitchen tables and we owe it to them to do the same here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, in order to do this, we must crack down on waste, fraud and abuse in government spending. We are going to have others of our party speak.

And now I would like to yield the floor to my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding. I appreciate the esteemed remark. I am not sure what that means, but I will take it as a compliment. Thank you very much.